

*Buteo desertorum* : The distribution is not well explained ; it is only a migrant to Africa and India, and never breeds there.

But it is unnecessary to continue these instances ; they are only a few, and there are of course debatable points, which cannot be discussed in this place, as they require further investigation.

Notwithstanding the inconsistency in nomenclature and non-recognition of certain subspecies, the 'List of British Birds' is a great forward step in British ornithology. It must be welcomed by everyone interested in the progress of our beloved science as one of the last stepping stones enabling us to reach the highest possible level.

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#### XIX.—Obituary.

##### PHILIP SAVILE GREY REID.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death, at the age of 69, of Capt. Savile Reid, which took place at his home, "The Elms," Yalding, Kent, on March the 1st last. Though he had of late lost some of his interest in ornithology, owing probably to his lameness, from which he suffered during the last ten years, he was at one time much engrossed in the subject, and was often seen at our gatherings and at the British Museum.

Reid was born at Welwyn, Herts, August 12, 1845, and was educated at Burney's Naval School at Gosport as he was intended for the Navy, but he passed into the Royal Academy at Woolwich, whence he obtained a Commission in the Royal Engineers in 1865.

During his service at Gibraltar in 1871-3, he made the acquaintance of Col. Irby and was associated with him on many ornithological expeditions. Subsequently, as a result of a stay in Bermuda, he prepared a list of the birds of that group, which was published in the 'Zoologist' for 1877 and was afterwards republished, with additional notes, by the

United States National Museum (Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 25, 1885, pp. 163-279).

In 1881 he was stationed at Newcastle, in the upper part of Natal, and while there, in conjunction with Capt. (now Lt.-Col.) E. A. Butler and Capt. (now Col.) H. W. Feilden, he made considerable collections and a number of observations which were embodied in a paper, "Ornithological Notes from Natal," published in the 'Zoologist' for 1882.

A second paper by the same three authors, "On the Plumage-changes of *Saxicola monticola*," published in 'The Ibis' for 1883 (pp. 331-337), is of special interest, as this Chat, which is common on the high veld of southern Africa, goes through a most remarkable series of changes of plumage, which even now are far from being satisfactorily elucidated.

Reid sent in his papers in 1884, when still a Captain, and settled down in England. He made two other contributions to 'The Ibis'—"Winter Notes from Morocco" (Ibis, 1885, pp. 241-255) and "Notes on the Birds of Teneriffe" (Ibis, 1887, pp. 424-435 and 1888, pp. 73-83)—as a result of two winter trips.

When Oates was unable through illness to continue the 'Catalogue of the Birds' Eggs in the British Museum,' Reid undertook to carry on the work, and completed and saw through the press the third and fourth volumes.

Reid was elected a Member of the Union in 1877, and only resigned at the end of last year.

The following notes are communicated by one of his oldest friends and companions in ornithology:—

"Savile Reid was an all-round good sportsman, a sound naturalist, and a most accurate observer of all things animal and vegetable; deeply interested in all branches of Zoology and Botany, and with a very special knowledge of our native fauna and flora, especially of its ornithology, entomology, and plants. Add to these advantages a charming personality, always blithe and good-tempered, ready to accept the rough with the smooth with equal equanimity, and a more

delightful companion, either at home or in the field, it would be difficult to find.

“When I first knew him, many years ago, he was living at Froyle House, near Alton, Hants, and I well remember his excitement at seeing a female Cuckoo fly up from the ground with an egg in her bill and make for a Pied Wagtail’s nest built in the ivy on the house. A hasty journey was made to inspect the Wagtail’s nest, and there, sure enough, besides the three eggs it was known to contain, was a Cuckoo’s egg still warm !

“For many years Reid was in the habit of making annual expeditions in summer to the north of Scotland to obtain nesting-groups of British birds for the series in the British Museum, at first with the late Colonel L. H. Irby, and then for many successive years with Mr. Ogilvie-Grant. Thus many groups of the most interesting species which are now exhibited in the Bird Gallery were procured. Among the more notable of these may be mentioned those of the Snow-Bunting and Dotterel taken in the Cairngorms, when Mr. F. D. Godman rented Inchroxy Forest from the late Duke of Richmond. Reid and Grant always considered that occasion as the red-letter day of their many expeditions, the nests of both these special desiderata, each with a full clutch of eggs, being discovered before 2 o’clock p.m. on the first day of their visit. Reid was an artist of considerable talent, and his excellent water-colour drawings and plans of the various nests taken, greatly facilitated their subsequent reproduction with their natural surroundings.

“Always a keen gardener, when repeated attacks of rheumatism rendered expeditions in the field more and more difficult, Reid devoted most of his time to his garden at “The Elms,” Yalding, many of his rare plants, especially his lilies, attracting special attention at the Horticultural shows.”

## KENNETH FORBES MEIKLEJOHN.

Through an oversight, the death of Lieut. Meiklejohn, of the 1st Cameron Highlanders, has not been recorded in our pages. He was killed in action at the battle of the Aisne, September 25, 1914.

Lieut. Meiklejohn, who was born in 1885, was a son of Lt.-Colonel J. F. Meiklejohn, late R.H.A. He was educated at Rugby and entered the Army in 1904. He was appointed Adjutant of his regiment, the 1st Batt. Cameron Highlanders, in March 1913.

He was elected to the Union in 1913, and is the first of our fellow-members who has fallen in the present war.

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XX.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

*B. O. C. Migration Report.*

[Report on the immigrations of summer residents in the spring of 1913 by the Committee appointed by the British Ornithologists' Club. Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxxiv. pp. 1-344. London, Dec. 1914.]

This is the ninth of the series of reports as originally planned. A tenth will be issued this year, after which it is proposed to summarize and digest the whole of the results of the enquiry in a single volume. The present report follows closely the lines of its predecessors and deals with the autumn migration of 1912 and the spring migration of 1913. In one respect the committee have been fortunate owing to the appointment of Mr. R. E. Wilson to the Caskets Lighthouse, so that they have at last been able to obtain adequate returns from this station, which is situated in the English Channel about eight miles west of Alderney. It is a most important point on the line of migration from England to the Continent, and the annual mortality there is enormous. Efforts, we understand, have recently been made to mitigate this by the supplying of perches around the lighthouse on which the birds rest.

The warm winter of 1912-13 appears to have induced a good many of our summer residents to spend the winter in the south and west of our islands, and this accounts perhaps